

SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

Vol. 37 No. 09

September 2021

Meetings

In Person or Zoom – the Choice is Yours!

from SWW President Rose Marie Kern

For over a year now we have been meeting exclusively via Zoom, which, considering that the only other option was not to meet at all, was a huge boon to maintaining our mission of helping writers succeed!

The poll taken at the last Saturday meeting indicated 67 percent of the members present wanted to start meeting in person. The board of directors has now voted to use the facility at University of New Mexico Continuing Education (UNM-CE) for Saturday meetings only, beginning at 10 a.m. on October 2, 2021. Tuesday meetings will still take place exclusively via Zoom. Check the next (October) SAGE for more details.

As you know, a lot of the restrictions have relaxed and the SWW board wanted to find flexible meeting options. With a membership base that has expanded past central New Mexico, we needed a way to allow those who want the camaraderie of meeting in person to do so, while still being able to include presenters and members from all over the state, the U.S., and beyond. Our previous meeting place did not allow for a Zoom component. Luckily, Albuquerque is home base to UNM-CE. This excellent learning institution already has lecture halls large enough to hold our membership and they're set up to be run in Zoom configuration! Using the UNM-CE facilities we can have in-person meetings while still using Zoom to reach beyond the local area. The facility provides the room, the equipment and training by their technical

As of the Annual Meeting date—October 2, 2021—SouthWest Writers will hold the Saturday meetings/workshops at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education building. The meetings will still be from 10 a.m. to noon with the workshop following from 12:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. These hybrid meetings will only occur once a month at the Saturday meeting. Tuesday or Wednesday evening meetings will still be Zoom-based only.

Because of this flexibility, any SWW member who wishes to meet in person may do so, and those who feel it is safer to stay sheltered at home can still access the excellent programs and presenters SWW is famous for.

cont'd on page 4

Starting Fresh Means Adopting New Habits

A new location brings new rules that everyone needs to comply with, and some general information you need to know.

- UNM-CE is located at **1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131**. This is a couple blocks north of Lomas on the east side of the street next to the old masonic lodge. There is easy access from all directions and parking is free on both sides of the building.
- We will be using **Room C in the North building**, which is on the north side of the building. It will be set up classroom style with a lot of space between seats, so everyone will have a surface to write on. Big TV screens and a drop-down projection screen in the room will display whoever is speaking at the time.
- **COVID REQUIREMENTS:** At this time, we do not know what the state will require in October when it comes to masks, though we encourage all our members to wear them and to be vaccinated to protect each other. As of this printing **masks are required at UNM**. If the governor shuts down N.M. again, we will send out alerts as soon as possible and go back to Zoom only.
- **UPON ARRIVAL:** The SWW Business table will be staffed for those wanting to renew their membership or pay for upcoming workshops and classes. We

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Learn how to order your merchandise NOW

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2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

DEPARTMENTS

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SouthWest Sage

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Look Who JOINED SWW in July

Polly Tausch
Patricia Kunkel
Renate Hume
Annette Morris
John Williams
Al Berryman
Suzanne Sersun
Amy Purcell
Carol Rawie
Steven McFadden
Terry McDermott



GIVE TO SWW!

Donating to SWW can be as easy as rounding UP your membership dues or going to the Website. Earmark your gift for a specific purpose if you like.



Donations accepted at the SWW office, 3200 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Suite 114, Albuquerque, NM 87110, or online through the SWW website:

www.southwestwriters.com (click the *Donations* tab and fill out the form to process your gift).

President's Corner



The years 2020 and 2021 saw dramatic changes to the world in general and SouthWest Writers in particular. Due to the onset of Covid, I expanded my time as President of SouthWest Writers by an extra year, as did our amazingly focused Treasurer, Jennifer Black, and our detail-oriented Secretary, Patricia Walkow. Together with Vice President Brenda Cole and the rest of our dedicated board we sought to bring our members not only stability but opportunities for improving their writing at a time when most of the world was stagnating. It has not been easy.

Members of the SWW board and the advisory members are all volunteers who receive no compensation yet each of them gives freely of their time and talents. The SAGE, Website, Writing Contest, Class and Workshop organization, zoom hosting, meeting planning and other necessary functions take hundreds of hours over a year's time. Frequently, there are different opinions as to how things should be run and long, spirited discussions ensue. These wonderful people often place their own writing projects on hold in order to keep the activities of SWW moving forward.

Next month we elect our leaders for 2022. Once elected, they will work closely with the current holders

of each position in order to effect a seamless transition. The new president will select up to 11 other members for the voting board. Each of these people heads a specific task or committee and is required to attend the board functions and the membership meetings. Another group of volunteers who are dedicated to either a single project or ongoing general tasks is our Advisory Board. Any member of SWW can volunteer to help with our ongoing projects and are allowed, but not required, to attend board meetings.

In 2020 the dictates of a debilitating disease forced us to find new ways to serve our mission. This board stepped up wonderfully and our membership numbers show how writers everywhere have acknowledged that our programs have been vital to their ongoing personal development. Now as we approach the end of 2021 we still don't know for sure how the Covid variants will affect our ability to meet in person, but we are optimistically moving forward with hybrid meetings knowing that if the government sequesters us once again, we have the necessary structure in place.

Thank you to all our members for being flexible. Thank you to the many speakers and presenters who gave of themselves during the past two years in order

Rose Marie

What's Inside?

Taking the big step to get SWW members back together in person has been no easy task.

But now the arrangements have been made, the protocols for safe conduct are defined, and we're ready to throw out the welcome mat for anyone who wants to reconnect personally with friends and get those networking connections sizzling again. President Rose Kern spells it all out on **page 1**. A large part of her message is that even though meeting in person will become an option on October 2, it will remain the choice of the individual member to attend in person or continue to participate via Zoom. What a world we live in! At times the multitude of our options seems nearly limitless.

That October meeting is promising to be a meeting full of events as well as change. We announced the names of the writing contest finalists in the August SAGE, so there is no mention of it this month, but those finalists will find out their placings at that Octo-

*I saw it
in the SAGE!*

ber meeting. We will also vote to elect an all new Executive Committee. The slate of unopposed nominees is on **page 12**. These are the people who, with your vote, have volunteered to see SWW through the next year or two. Take the time to read their bios and find out a bit about the expertise and knowledge these busy people are willing to commit to the service of our organization of Writers Helping Writers.

Fundraising committee chair Kathy Kitts has found even more ways to keep the SWW mission moving forward. Her latest stroke of genius is SWAG. On **page 10** we tell you how to get your hands on some SWW merchandise and how to design it and order it yourself.

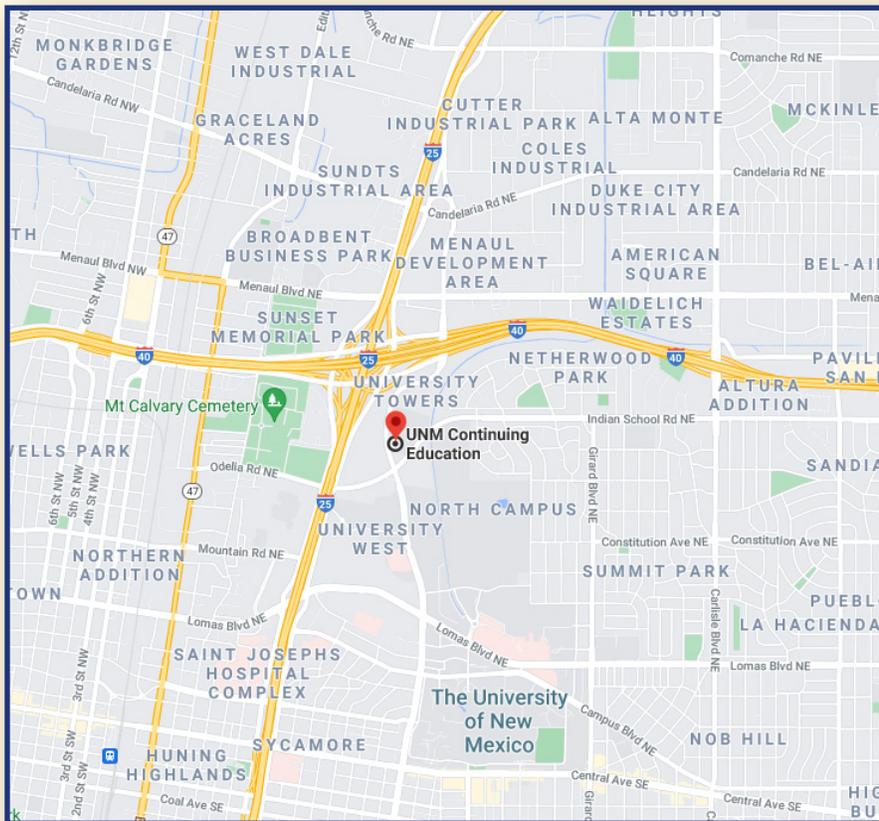
It appears this edition of SAGE is filled with news of how your leaders have availed the organization of vast options at our disposal. By focusing on our human compulsion toward expansion, change, and growth, SWW is emerging from the pandemic with sure and certain steps.

Kathy

staff, at a price lower than what we were paying at the previous meeting space.

Please stay abreast of the alerts sent to you weekly from our office as, should the Covid-Delta variant require further isolation, we may be forced to alter our plans. Be prepared to wear masks to the in-person meetings.

We are optimistic that this is the right time to move forward in creating the type of interpersonal writing environment we have all come to appreciate, while continuing to offer those who live at a distance, excellent insights into all aspects of writing. We expect that our first meeting will bring us insights as to what more we can include in the future. It will be exciting to come together once more but please do not feel you have to attend in person if you do not wish to. The choice is yours.



will also have some examples of SWAG items available.

- **FOOD:** We will **NOT** have tables set out for community food, however everyone can bring their own covered drink and something to eat for themselves. There are a couple vending machines in the building.
- **Smoking and alcoholic beverages** are **NOT** allowed in the building.
- **WIFI:** Anyone attending events/classes may utilize UNM-CE wifi. Within the building the wifi is Lobo Guest. Lobo Guest requires no password, but needs the user to open a web browser when they connect. The browser should automatically redirect to the Terms of Service Page, where the user must consent to UNM's Use Policies.
- **PARKING FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES:** Please leave the parking spaces at the northern end, close to the building for those struggling with disabilities. This allows them to easily enter through the north door, which is closer to our room. All others should enter via the main entrance facing west.
- **BOOK SALES:** As we are feeling our way with this first meeting we do not plan to have a community book sales table, however, individuals wanting to bring their own books for sale may do so. We ask that you please set up either in the back row or at the end of a row so as not to impede movement.
- **SUCCESSES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** will still be allowed via either Zoom or in person. If you are at the meeting you can line up when we call for the announcements. If you are watching via Zoom place your name in the chat room as we have been doing.

The Role of Critiques

by Kirt Hickman

My first point about critiques is: You need one. Something you think is interesting, exciting, and clear might not be. You've worked on your story for too long, and invested too much of yourself into it, to judge it objectively. You need someone to save you from yourself. Furthermore, even the best writing leaves opportunities for improvement that the author can't or won't catch. You owe it to your readers, and to yourself, to take advantage of those opportunities.

Methods for acquiring critiques vary widely in terms of cost, speed, and required effort. In general terms, you have two choices: critique groups and critique services. Whichever you choose, don't give work that you haven't revised and proofed to a critiquer. If you do, the critiquer will spend her time commenting on problems you're already aware of and should have already corrected. Don't let this happen. The value of a critique lies in its ability to reveal the things you can't catch for yourself.

Critique Groups:

Critique groups are generally the cheapest way to get your writing critiqued. They require a significant time investment, however, because you'll be expected to critique other writers' work in exchange for their critique of yours. Yet this has its own benefits. It's easier to identify weaknesses in other people's writing than it is to find them in your own. Critiquing others' work will give you practice.

Critique Services:

Critique services are usually the fastest way to get a critique. If you want professional feedback quickly and have the money to pay for it, this may be the option for you. Prices vary, however, so shop around. If you can't afford to submit your entire manuscript, send an excerpt. You can learn a lot about your writing from the critique of a few dozen pages or a couple of chapters.

Accepting Criticism:

Accepting feedback, especially critical feedback (the kind your critiquer is supposed to give you) can be difficult. You worked hard on your story. You poured your heart and soul, not to mention many hours of your life, into it. Having someone criticize it can be devastating.

Keep these important things in mind as you listen to, or read, your critiquer's comments. First, they're not personal. They're intended to make your writing better.

Your critiquer is genuinely trying to help you. Second, you asked for, and possibly paid for, her honest opinion. Don't get upset when she gives it to you. Third, no matter what problems she finds, you can correct them, and the result will be well worth the effort.

If you receive spoken, rather than written feedback, don't defend your work. If you justify your writing with statements like, "The reason I did that was..." or "I disagree because..." you'll shut down your critiquer. She doesn't care why you wrote your story the way you did, she's just stating her observations. Whether you agree with her comments or not, just say, "Thank you." Doing so will keep the feedback coming. After all, that's what you're there for. In the end, if you disagree with a particular comment, don't make changes based on it.

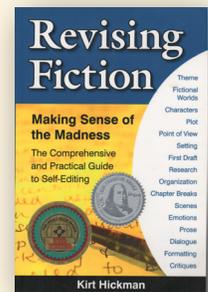
If you have the opportunity, ask questions to clarify your critiquer's comments: "Can you give me an example?" or "Do you think it would help if I made this change?" These kinds of questions are productive. They show the critiquer that you're listening and that you welcome her feedback. And her answers will help you make the appropriate revisions.

If you receive more than one critique of the same piece of writing, you're likely to get contradictory feedback on many specific points. Different people have different tastes and expectations. You can't please them all.

So what do you do with contradictory feedback? First, recognize that whatever other people think, you are the author. Only you can decide what works for you and for your story. Having said that, consider each comment carefully before you decide whether to accept or discard it. Recognize that you do not have an objective viewpoint.

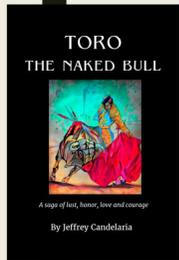
Here's my rule of thumb: Get feedback from as many sources as possible. If two critiquers mark something as a problem, it warrants some change. I also consider comments that come from only one source. If I agree with these comments, mine becomes the second condemning opinion and I change the passage.

Editor's note: This is the final column in Kirt Hickman's series of 37 columns for the SAGE. We are grateful to Kirt for this consistent sharing of this body of writing knowledge. Members may read the archived columns through the Member's Only section of the [SWW website](#).



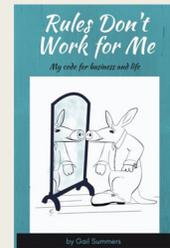
Take a Class Via Zoom

REGISTER for classes by calling the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – noon), or by using the SouthWest Writers online registration form at SouthWestwriters.com. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)



SouthWest Writers Exclusive 3 week Class Book Covers From Art to Finish

Rose Marie Kern and Kathy Louise Schuit
Thursdays 3pm – Oct 7 thru 21
\$60 SWW members; \$90 Nonmembers

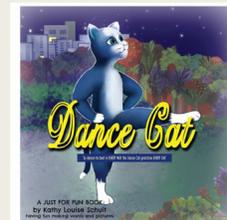
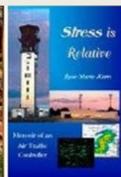
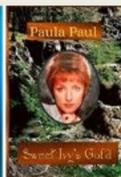
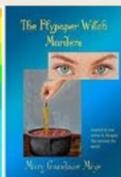
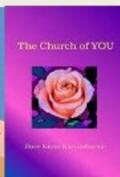
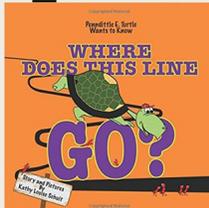


Are you planning to self publish? Need help creating the perfect book cover?

Kathy is an exceptional artist. . .Rose is a fabulous formatter. Almost everyone has MS Office on their computers. Rose and Kathy can show you how to create your masterpiece. This class covers artistic and technical aspects of designing a book cover that is ready to upload for self-publishing.

Class dates and times: October 7, 14 & 21 from 3-5 pm MT.

Register on the SWW website: southwestwriters.com/classes/



Writing Scenes That Drive Your Story

with Rob Spiegel

Scenes—and their sequels—are the building blocks of storytelling, whether it's fiction or memoir. You can create a plot from a list of key scenes. The “sequel” is the back end of a scene, showing how the world has changed after the action in the scene. The class will explore how to create scenes that are fractals of your larger story, complete with dialog, motive, conflict, drama, and resolve. In these six two-hour classes, we will spend the first hour looking at the principles of great scenes, and the second hour looking at scenes submitted by students. Course materials include handouts for each session.

- **ROB SPIEGEL'S** first published writing was a children's story in 1976. Since, he has published countless short stories, six books, and thousands of articles. His involvement in SWW goes back to the early 1980s when he gave talks on writing for the short story Romance Market—you know, *True Confessions*.

To Register: Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – noon), or by using the online registration form. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

Zoom Meeting: The Zoom invitation link and the password will be emailed to those who purchase this class. For more information, please contact the class/workshop coordinator at Info@SWWriters.com.

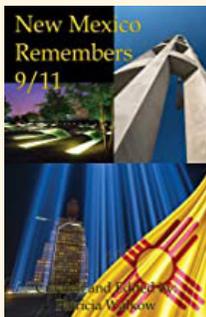


6-week Course
Wednesdays: October 27,
November 3, 10, 17, 24,
and December 1

4:00 – 6:00 pm
Platform: Zoom
\$120 SWW members;
\$180 Nonmembers

Winning!

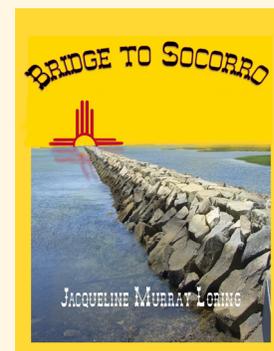
SWW Members Share Their Successes



Editor PATRICIA WALKOW and contributors to her award-winning anthology *New Mexico Remembers 9/11* will read from their work on Sept. 8. The event will take place via ZOOM at 6 p.m. and is hosted by Bookworks in Albuquerque.

[Information and Registration](#)

Bridge to Socorro, by JACQUELINE MURRAY LORING, is a feature-length movie script, a different read for most people. The story features an ill New Mexican horse breeder who, in the company of his silent partner/ex-mother-in-law, travels to Cape Cod to negotiate the sale of his bankrupt ranch. While there, he discovers a precocious granddaughter, a 4-H gymkhana club in trouble, and that the family matriarch is a seasoned manipulator.



Order now at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The Sage Writing Challenge

SEPTEMBER

Write 500 words or less in any form or genre that starts with:
I rule over a kingdom of crested newts and a fat, disinterested cat...
 Read and follow the Guidelines (right).

SouthWest SAGE

The *SouthWest SAGE* newsletter is the professional publication of SouthWest Writers. Submissions focusing on all aspects of research, writing, and publishing in any genre are welcome. To familiarize yourself with the types of articles published in the *SouthWest SAGE*, read past issues at southwestwriters.com.

Here are four ways you may be included:

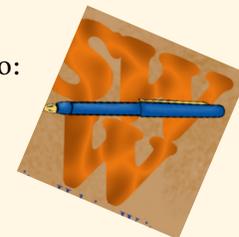
- Write an article for the SAGE related to the craft of writing, getting published, etc.
- Enter stories, poems, or articles inspired by the monthly writing challenge announced in each SAGE.
- Send in a short story/poem/essay of your own—on any topic (inclusion in the SAGE is subject to the discretion of the editor).
- Enter artwork/photographs related to writing in general or accompanying your stories.

Read, understand and follow the **guidelines** for submission, above.
Submissions that do not comply with the guidelines will not be considered.

SAGE CHALLENGE AND ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Payment is in bylines and clips.
- **Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue.**
- Standard article lengths are from 300-800 words; certain *Sage* Challenges may set more specific word count requirements (see the Challenge description box, left). Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length. Submissions must be tasteful; free from profanity, explicit sex or violence, political commentary, etc.
- Send all submissions as either standard text in an email or in a Word document in 12 pt. size. Single spaced. Do not get fancy with formatting or fonts. To ensure proper author credit, your name or pen name must appear within the document you submit. Submissions with no name will not be considered.
- Polish your work. Submissions should be professional in appearance and quality of writing, fully edited and ready for publication.
- Accompanying art/photographs are appreciated but proper attribution and permission is required.
- Inclusion in the SAGE is subject to the discretion of the editor.

Send questions or submissions to:
 Kathy Schuit
 SouthWest SAGE Editor
sage@swwriters.com



Saturday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m. (MT) Zoom MEETING

Elements Of Nonfiction

with Loretta Hall

Writing nonfiction must be easy. Just tell about real people, real things, real events. No imagination or creativity needed, right? Well, not quite. There's a craft to writing nonfiction, just as there is to writing fiction. In this presentation, an experienced writer of nonfiction articles and books will describe different types (may we call them genres?) of nonfiction and explain what elements contribute to making an article or book successful.

LORETTA HALL has been writing nonfiction for thirty years, producing hundreds of articles and reference book chapters and nine books in a variety of genres. Her work has been recognized by awards from the National Federation of Press Women, Military Writers Society of America, Foreword's IndieFab Book Awards, New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards, and New Mexico Press Women. Her latest book, the as-told-to memoir *Higher, Faster, Longer: My Life in Aviation and My Quest for Spaceflight*, was a finalist in this year's National Indie Excellence Awards. Loretta is a former Parris Award winner and was the National Federation of Press Women's 2016 Communicator of Achievement.



Join the Zoom Meeting

Our Zoom log-in policy has changed due to recent disruptions to our free meetings. Non-members are now required to contact our office (505-830-6034 or info@SWWriters.com) or sign up for Elerts to receive a link to our upcoming meetings. SWW Members sign into the Members Only portion of the website. Once in the Members Portal, follow the Zoom log-in directions posted prior to the meeting.

Saturday, Sept. 4, 12:30 p.m. (MT) Zoom Workshop



Insider Tips for Using the Internet

with Loretta Hall

"Browsing the Internet" sounds like scanning the bookshelves in a cozy bookstore. In reality, though, it can be a frustrating, time-consuming foray into a maze where strangers track your every move. In this workshop, Loretta Hall will show you ways to use the Internet more efficiently and with fewer eyes spying on you. Bring your questions so we can help dispel the particular gremlins that hinder your movements through cyberspace.

LORETTA HALL uses the Internet regularly to do research for nonfiction books (she's written eight) and magazine articles (she's written over 300). She is a former SWW board member and Parris Award winner.

SWW members: Free
◆ Non-members: \$20

TO REGISTER

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–noon) or use one of the online forms (Free-to-Members Registration or \$20 Non-Member Registration) on the website: southwestwriters.com, *Workshops* page. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

The Zoom invitation link and the password will be emailed to those who purchase this workshop. For SWW members, the link and password will be sent once membership is verified. Please contact the class/workshop coordinator at Info@SWWriters.com for more information.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m. (MT) Zoom MEETING

The Ninth Metal, Reading And Craft Discussion

with Benjamin Percy

In this presentation, author Benjamin Percy will read from his latest novel, *The Ninth Metal*, and lead a craft discussion.

BENJAMIN PERCY is the author of four novels (most recently *The Dark Net*), three story collections (including *Suicide Woods*), and a book of essays titled *Thrill Me* that is widely taught in creative writing classrooms. His sci-fi trilogy — *The Comet Cycle* — will be published in 2021 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and has been optioned by the Russo brothers (*Avengers: Endgame*).

He is part of the new Dawn of X-Men at Marvel and writes both Wolverine and X-Force. He has written for DC Comics and Dynamite Entertainment and is known for his celebrated runs on *Green Arrow*, *Teen Titans*, *Nightwing*, and *James Bond*. He also writes the series *Devil's Highway* and *Year Zero* for AWA Studios. He wrote two seasons of the audio drama *Wolverine*, produced by Marvel and Stitcher. The first season, "Wolverine: The Long Night," was listed as one of the top 15 podcasts of the year by Apple and won the iHeartRadio Award for Best Scripted Podcast. His other honors include the Whiting Award, an NEA fellowship, the Plimpton Prize, two Pushcart Prizes, and inclusion in Best American Short Stories, 100 Years of the Best American Short Stories, and Best American Comics.

Join the Zoom Meeting

Our Zoom log-in policy has changed due to recent disruptions to our free meetings. Non-members are now required to contact our office (505-830-6034 or info@swwriters.com) or sign up for Elerts to receive a link to our upcoming meetings. SWW Members sign into the Members Only portion of the website. Once in the Members Portal, follow the Zoom log-in directions posted prior to the meeting.



October Workshops - Tuesday evenings beginning Oct 12 thru Nov 2

The Worlds and Wonders of Speculative Fiction

FREE TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

Wildly popular, Speculative Fiction covers everything from Horror & Suspense to Science Fiction, Magic, and Fantasy of all kinds. Let's explore the topic in depth from published authors who live in those worlds!

October 12 - Spec Fiction Genre definitions

October 19 - Horror and Suspense

October 26 - The many Realms of Fantasy

November 2 - Purely Science Fiction

TO REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS

Full descriptions, presenter bios and registration on the SWW website: SouthWestwriters.com. Or call all the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon). You may also contact the class/workshop coordinator at info@SWWriters.com for more information.

Featuring authors:

B R Kingsolver
D.E. Williams
Geoff Habiger
Natalie Wright
Joyce Hertzoff
David Corwell
Kirt Hickman
Vicky Murata
David Lee Simmons



UPCOMING SWW SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Meetings are **FREE** to everyone. Workshops are **FREE** to members; registration instructions below.
Via Zoom

OCTOBER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

MEETING: **Rob Spiegel**

Scenes and Sequels in Novel Writing

WORKSHOP: **Kathy Kitts**

NaNoWriMo

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

MEETING: **David Corwell**

Horror and Suspense

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

MEETING: **Lynn Miller**

Your Audience, Your Story

WORKSHOP: **Patricia Walkow & Loretta Hall**

Finding the Story

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

MEETING: **Donnell Bell**

Basics of Mystery Writing

SWW **SWAG** Available in September!

SouthWest Writers has partnered with Redbubble to make our logos and designs available on everyday objects such as t-shirts, notebooks, ball caps, and – wait for it – even shower curtains! How the partnership works is SouthWest Writers uploads files of our logos, badges, etc. to the Redbubble site. Anyone, a SouthWest Writer member or friend, navigates to the site, picks a design they love on a product they want, Redbubble prints on demand, and mails the item directly to the member. SouthWest Writers receives 20 percent of the sale as a “royalty.”

How do you check out what is available? You simply follow this link: SWWSwag.redbubble.com. If you want to purchase something, you select the item and design/color of your choice, and check out like you would any other online shop.

The SAGE asked Kathy Kitts, Fundraising Chair, why SWW decided to work with a fulfillment center. She explained, “We are a small organization and our office simply doesn’t have the space to order t-shirts in several colors and sizes and schlep all of that to meetings. Plus partnering with a print-on-demand service allows more choice in both products and designs.”

When asked why SWW selected Redbubble and not some other fulfillment service, Kathy said, “We chose Redbubble because they are a responsible, carbon neutral company that prints on demand regionally. This means 95 percent of what you order is sourced and printed nearby, reducing the energy required to ship it

to you. In addition, Redbubble requires that all third-party printers and manufacturers ensure safe working conditions and minimize environmental impact. You do not have to worry about child labor, harassment, or discrimination. All values very important to our members.”

Due to the pressures of COVID, fundraising is important to help support SWW programs. When asked why the fundraising committee chose SWW as a fundraising method Kathy explained, “We wanted a relatively passive revenue stream. We prefer our volunteers spend their time writing and not processing orders. SWW merchandise is not only fun, but it also functions as a way to advertise for the organization. When people see the logo, they ask about it.”

So, to that end, please visit the SWW shop and help us get the word out! SouthWest Writers: Writers helping writers.



Doug Preston's Adventure Travails

In his book *The Celestial Hunter* author/publisher Roberto Calasso described writing as something akin to the primordial urge to hunt. [New York Times obituary (August 1, 2021)]. "A book is written wherein there is something specific that has to be discovered," Calasso wrote. "The writer doesn't know what it is, nor where it is, but knows it has to be found. The hunt begins. The writing begins."

This quote resonated as I read Doug Preston's *The Lost City of the Monkey God*. As the president of the Authors Guild Council, Preston hosted a dinner at his home in Maine during the summer of 2021. I was privileged to attend. Preston said I could pick any one of his books from his office shelves. I chose the one with this blurb by Erik Larson: "High adventure at its best, and all true."

Preston opened Chapter 1, "The Gates of Hell," in Honduras. He is about to embark through the heart of Mosquitia where "the thickest jungle in the world carpets relentless mountain chains, some a mile high, cut by steep ravines, with lofty waterfalls and roaring torrents." The area is known for its "pools of quickmud that can swallow a person alive," and "is infested with deadly snakes, jaguars, and thickets of catclaw vines with hooked thorns that tear at flesh and clothing." In addition, Preston received warnings about bullet ants, "whose bite equals the pain of being shot with a bullet," tree-climbing snakes, and the disease mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, which is sometimes called white leprosy. The bite of an infected sand fly initiates leishmaniasis in vulnerable humans.

Most folks hearing these warnings would reconsider their plans, but not Preston. He had first heard about the legend of The Lost City of the Monkey God, also known as The White City (Cuidad Blanca), in 1996

The Writing Life

by
Sherri L.
Burr



Sherri L. Burr is the author of over two dozen books. Her 27th book, *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia: 1619-1865* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University, and Yale Law School, Burr has been a member of South-West Writers for over 30 years. She currently serves as President of New Mexico Press Women and on the Board of Directors of the Authors Guild Foundation. In 2021, she was named the National Federation of Press Women Communicator of Achievement and received the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College Achievement Award.

when he was on assignment with *National Geographic*. A decade and a half later, he joined others searching for the archaeological ruins, and published articles in that magazine and *The New Yorker*. In 2017, he authored the fully realized book, a work so riveting that I also downloaded the audio book so I could continue the chapters during my long walks. Preston's group of modern adventurers encountered every danger they were warned about as they hacked their path through jungle to find a city that humans had not set foot in for six centuries.

After half the team returned with insect bites that refused to heal, they contacted the National Institute of Health. Preston journeyed to Washington, D.C., for a diagnosis of his wounds only to be told he had contracted the dreaded leishmaniasis. He submitted to the treatment protocol, which in itself posed perils. Indeed, doctors ceased treatment for some members of the team who developed severe liver damage.

After reading these chapters, this question arose in my mind: Would Preston undertake such a journey again, knowing all that he would encounter? I didn't have to email him my query because soon thereafter I read chapters detailing his return to Mosquitia. This time, he applied more insect repellent to his body to ward off

insects.

After finishing *The Lost City of the Monkey God*, I felt gratitude for writers like Preston. They willingly embark on adventures so that the rest of us do not have to put our lives at risk to learn more about ancient history.

Preston embodied Calasso's words. He sought to discover a lost city. He did not know where the city was when he went to Honduras, but his prior research indicated that the myth of the city could indeed be a reality. Preston began his hunt. He wrote his tale. We, the reading public, received the benefit.



2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

The following SWW members have been nominated for election to the 2022 Executive Committee. They have accepted those nominations and will stand for election at the October 2 Annual Meeting.

All nominees are currently running uncontested. Those elected begin their terms on January 1, 2022.

HOW TO VOTE (you MUST be a member):

1. In person during SWW's annual meeting, October 2.
2. By electronic ballot. The link to the ballot will be sent to SWW members in September.

Please contact the SWW office (505-830-6034 or info@swwriters.com) if you cannot vote electronically or attend the in-person meeting.

Nominee for SWW President:

Brenda Cole

Brenda has been an educator for children from preschool through high school. Her multiple life sciences degrees led to teaching Biology and Western Medicine at three different institutions. She splits her time between writing, art projects, and genealogy. Over the years she has become an award-winning author of nonfiction short stories. Brenda is the current vice-president of SWW and chair of the Collegium Committee.



Nominee for SWW Vice-president:

Joe Brown

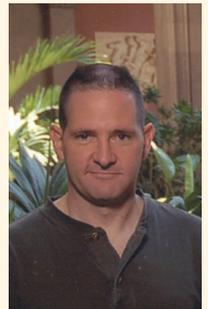
Joe writes historical fiction and memoirs. He retired from his USAF military and civil service careers in 2010 as a Senior Analyst advising the Commander, USAF Flight Test Center. He is a member of SouthWest Writers, Western Writers of America, Military Writers Society of America, and several non-profit organizations.



Nominee for SWW Secretary:

Dan Wetmore

Dan is a North Carolina transplant, having landed in New Mexico after twenty years' peripatations with the U.S. military, during which he performed tours of duty in a nuclear missile silo as an ICBM launch officer, as an Instructor of Ethics and Logic at the US Air Force Academy, launching satellites aboard decommissioned ICBMs, and overseeing a communications post in southern Turkey. His dual degrees are in Philosophy. Dan is a poet and essayist who was the 2021 chair of the SWW writing contest. He is presently editing and formatting *Winning Words of SouthWest Writers*, SWW's 2021 anthology.



Nominee for SWW Treasurer:

Rose Marie Kern

Rose attended Butler University where she began her studies in Arts Administration, though she received her Bachelor's degree in Non-Profit management from the University of New Mexico. In addition to working for the FAA and later Lockheed Martin, Rose has owned and managed her own business since 2003. As an author, Rose has had over a thousand articles published in national and regional magazines on solar energy, sustainable living, solar cooking, aviation, and organic gardening, and has written five books. Currently she works with authors who want to learn how to self-publish, and has given a number of classes and workshops for SWW. Rose has been a member of the SouthWest Writers since January of 2006, and a board member since 2008. She is familiar with the history and the present workings of SWW's finances and has worked closely over the past couple years with Jennifer Black, outgoing treasurer, and ReVaH Loring, the office manager.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS



Left Coast Crime # 32

Southwest Sleuths

Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 7-10, 2022

Information and registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Registration for Left Coast Crime includes a Welcome Reception, two special Breakfasts (seating limited), the “Lefty” Awards Banquet, and admission to all panels and interviews.

Discounts apply on tickets purchased before January 1, 2022.

ABOUT THE “LEFTY” AWARD

The Left Coast Crime “Lefty” Awards are fan awards chosen by registered members of the Left Coast Crime convention. Nominations for awards to be presented at each annual convention are made by people registered for that convention and also the immediately prior convention. A ballot listing the official nominees is given to each registrant when they check in at the convention, and final voting takes place at the convention. The ballots are tabulated and that year’s “Lefty” Awards are presented at the Awards Celebration.

The National Parks Arts Foundation (NPAF) works



directly with select artists and The National Park Service (and their affiliates) to create unique Artist in Residency programs within the wonders of the National Parks. The NPAF also works closely with museums, galleries, and curators to keep the residency programs relevant to the Art World beyond the parks and bring the highest caliber of artists to the parks.

The NPAF has produced over 300 programs and supported over 120 artists (including writers, poets and songwriters) through our National Parks Artists in Residence programs. This work is done in partnership with the National Park Service, connecting the parks with real working artists who are inspired by and working in the parks.

Available residencies for 2022 include Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Fort Union National Monument, Big Bend National Park and many others farther from New Mexico. More information is available by clicking on the NPAF icon (top).

Questions? Call NPAF directly at (505) 715-6492 (leave a message) or email info@nationalparksartsfoundation.org.

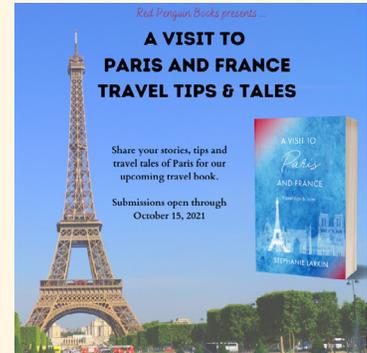
Do You Love to Travel? Travel stories wanted!!!

The Red Penguin Collection is adding a location-specific book series, *Travel Tips & Tales*. Both fiction and nonfiction works will be featured in volumes focusing on geographical settings rather than genre. This series will begin in Europe, and if you have any great travel stories or tips,

or are a writer of short stories, poetry, non-fiction, or dramatic works of 5000 words or less, we are accepting submissions whose local settings include England, Ireland, Italy, France, and Spain. We are looking especially for works that mention landmarks and popular places for readers who will love to recognize these settings in the stories.



Changing lives...one book at a time!



[CLICK HERE](#) to submit, get more details and see future volumes.

WRITE FOR **GLOBE SOUP** TRAVEL BLOG!

The Globe Soup Travel Blog is an online space for travellers, adventurers and explorers. A place to find inspiration for your next trip, to discover the hidden secrets of far-flung destinations and to hear incredible accounts of amazing journeys.

It’s also a place for budding travel writers. We need help creating great content. Here at Globe Soup we pay for quality content. We welcome submissions of articles, photography, poetry, videos, short films and even fiction writing. We don’t just hire established content creators, anyone can join our team!

So, if you’ve created something beautiful from your adventures, we want to hear from you.

Please email submissions@globesoup.net to contribute. Check out the [Submission Guidelines](#) before submitting.



INDIGNOR HOUSE PUBLISHING

Annual Writing Competition

Submittals will be accepted September 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

WORD COUNT: up to 5,000 words

PRIZES:

- 1st place wins \$500,
- 2nd place wins \$250, and
- 3rd wins \$150, plus an award, a certificate, and a hard cover book with cover jacket.

We will be responding to each submittal with a critique.



For more information and submission [CLICK HERE.](#)

El Paso Writers' League

Border Tapestry Writing Contest

- 13 Categories
- Open to all writers
- Submissions must be original and unpublished
- Submissions must not have been awarded prizes in another EPWL contest
- Deadline: Saturday, September 11, 2021
- Email entries as attachment to bordertapestrycontest@gmail.com
- Indicate category
- Payment:
Members: \$25 for 1-3 submissions, \$5 per additional submission
Non-Members: \$45 for 1-3 submissions, \$10 per additional submission
- Two entries per category, per author

Guidelines, instructions and information [HERE.](#)



[Five Words](#)

7 DAY STORY WRITING CHALLENGES

from [GLOBE SOUP](#)

PRIZE: £500 ENTRY: FREE

7 DAY STORY WRITING CHALLENGES take place throughout the year.

- Before a new challenge begins, all those who have registered will be randomly divided into 12 GROUPS. Each group corresponds to a different GENRE.
- When the challenge begins you will receive an email with your randomly assigned genre and the SECRET CHALLENGE THEME.
- All participants receive the same theme but must write a short story of no more than 2,000 words, inspired by the theme, written in the genre assigned to them.

You have exactly 7 days to write and submit your story.

THE NEXT CHALLENGE BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SWW Board Meeting Summarized August 2021

1. Joe Brown is now a member of the voting board.
2. Sarah Baker has resigned from the board.
3. Meeting days will change in 2022:
 - Saturday meetings will be conducted on the 2nd Saturday of the month.
 - The “Tuesday” meeting will be conducted on the 4th Wednesday of the monthMore information to be released in the October SAGE.
4. A new venue for in-person meetings will be used. It will allow for Saturday meetings to be conducted virtually, via ZOOM, and also in person. See SAGE article (**Page 1**) for more information.
5. Membership will be voting on a by-law change at the October 2 general meeting. Here is the motion the board passed, to be ratified by membership:
 - The office of Vice-President will be a one-year commitment. To be eligible for the office of Vice President a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination, and shall have either served on the Board, or have actively participated as a volunteer in a committee or advisory capacity within the past five years.
6. Membership as of August 1 is 354.
7. SWW SWAG items will soon be available for purchase. To access the vendor handling the sales of SWW-branded items, you need to use the Member portion of the SWW website. If you do not have a member ID, please visit the website, click “Members” tab, and request an ID.
8. Collegium, classes, and workshops are being planned for 2022. Prices are lower for members than non-members.
9. SWW Writing Contest awards will be announced and given out at the October 2 general meeting.
10. The Board selected a winner of the 2021 Parris Award, to be announced at the Annual Meeting.



Board of Directors

Rose Marie Kern, President
Brenda Cole, Vice President
Jennifer Black, Treasurer
Patricia Walkow, Secretary

Joe Brown, Member At Large
Roger Floyd, Bylaws/Signage
Cornelia Gamlem, Marketing/PR
Robert Kidera, Member At Large
Dr. Kathy Kitts, Fundraising
Jacqueline Murray Loring, Membership
Sam Moorman, Facilities Manager
Léonie Rosenstiel, Print Media
Kathy Schuit, Sage Editor
Kathy Wagoner, Website
Dan Wetmore, Writing Contest

The SWW Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meetings are conducted via Zoom.

SWW Office:
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Albuquerque, NM 87110
phone (505) 830-6034
email: info@swwriters.com
website: www.southwestwriters.com

